Central Academy of Technology and Arts

Cougar Chronicle

Volume 6; Issue 3, August 23, 2018

Dear CATA Family,

We are excited to welcome our teachers, staff and students back to school on 8/27. Get Ready for our Open House to meet the teachers on September 4th from 6-8 PM. Senior Night—Information for Students and Parents is



on 9/4 from 7-8 PM. The Performing Arts Department welcomes academy parents and students to join them before Open House on 9/4 5 to 6pm in the Media Center for desserts and coffee. Parents and students will have the opportunity to meet the staff and learn more about the academy. Performing Arts Parents can view the Academy Calendar by clicking here. The Performing Arts Department is looking for parents to join the Performing Arts Committee of the PTSO! Our first interest meeting will be on 9/5 at 6pm in the Media Center. We would love to have all Performing Arts Pathways represented! Important Information about auditions for the Spring Musical is in this edition.

Cyber Security Information Night for Junior Students and Parents. On 8/30 from 6:30-7:30 in Room 401. Professors from South Piedmont Community College will be here to explain the college courses that students will be taking during their final two years of high school.

Parent email and phone contact information—it is vital that we have accurate information so that we can reach you concerning your students. You will receive a form for changes with the student's back to school paperwork. You may also email Mr. William Smith with any changes.

School Starts on Monday, 8/27/18. Students should arrive by 8:40 am to make the first bell of the day that signals students to move to their first class. On Monday and Tuesday, students will report to their Advisories (or homerooms) first. Lists will be posted in the hall.

- Parking passes are available to all students to purchase for \$40. Please click here for the appropriate paper work and see details in this edition. Students who drive the first day of school must have a parking pass. All past due fees must be paid in order for students to purchase parking passes.
- Join the PTSO during open house and check out important PTSO info. In this edition.
- **Cougar Athletic Passes** are on sale for the fall, winter, and spring sports seasons for all regular season home games. The cost is \$50. Please click here to purchase. More details inside.
- Blue Crew Student Section Shirts are on sale for \$12. Click here to purchase. More details inside.
- Chromebooks for ALL students at CATA—Please see important information inside. All students will receive a user agreement the first day of school and must return it the second day to get their Chromebook.
- CATA Spirit Wear— Please see important information inside.
- CATA Summer Read—Please see important information inside.
- Schedules and Schedule Changes—Please see important information inside.

Schedules and Schedule Correct ions- Schedules were picked up by students this past week or mailed home (along with Bus Information). Students who have a hole in their schedule were asked to see their counselors on 8/22, 8/23, and 8/24 from 12:30 to 3:00 PM to select a course to fill the schedule. **Schedule Corrections** will begin on Monday, 8/27 and go until Friday, 8/31. The Schedule Correction Google Doc Link will be posted to the CATA Website on the afternoon of Friday, 8/24. Please follow the schedule that will be printed on the 1st day of school on GOLD paper until you speak to your assigned counselor regarding a Schedule Correction.

Please take time to read over this newsletter. These newsletters will begin on a weekly basis once the school year starts so that the whole CATA community can read about the great things our children and teachers are doing. For information about how to make sure you and your CATA neighbors are on the list to receive the newsletter, please go to the For Parents tab on our website, or <u>click here.</u> The Cougar Chronicle, in addition to our website, will be the main form of communication from school to home. At CATA we will continue to work toward Leading the Way so that your child can lead the way in the future! Go Cougars! Ms. Merritt

Students Schedules for 2018-2019

- -Counselors have worked diligently to give students the classes they requested last spring.
- -Students have either received the classes they selected during the registration process last spring or students will see "Please See Your Counselor" on their schedule. This is listed as a place holder in the event a class did not make or there is a conflict we need to discuss with the student.



- -If a student has "Please See Your Counselor on the schedule, there will be an opportunity fro students to meet with a Guidance Counselor prior to the start of school on 8/22, 8/23, and 8/24 from 12:30 to 3:00. If a student cannot make these times to fill a hole in the schedule, then they can see their counselor during the class period with a hole on the first day of school.
- -If a student does not have "Please See Your Counselor" on the schedule, the student received the classes he or she requested in the Spring of 2018 and cannot request any changes prior to the start of school.
- -Information will be shared with students on the first day of school as to how to request a schedule change for a **valid specified reason**.
- -Schedule Corrections will begin on Monday, August 27th and go until Friday, August 31st. The Schedule Correction Google Doc Link will be posted to the CATA Website on the afternoon of Friday, August 24th. The student must be logged into their UCPS Google Accounts to fill out the form.
- -Please follow your schedule that will be printed on the 1st day of school on GOLD paper until you speak to your assigned counselor regarding a Schedule Correction.

We ask that you please respect the process and <u>not e-mail</u> Guidance Counselors to inquire about schedule changes. They look forward to filling holes in late August or responding to requests during the first five days of the semester. Please note that email requests for schedule changes will not be accepted. We will have an electronic form that students must complete during school hours the first five days of classes.

CHROMEBOOKS- 2018-2019

CATA is the school of Technology and all students are required to use their Chromebooks at school. This UCPS Technology Initiative provides learning anywhere, anytime for our students. We are very excited for all of our CATA students to receive their Chromebook again to use for schoolwork during the school year. Students at CATA are required to bring their Chromebook to school every day.



Parents—both you and your child will be required to sign a Chrome book Student /Parent Agreement. **EVERY student will receive a form on the first day of school.** The form will be due back the next morning (Tuesday 8/28). Students will not be able to receive a chrome book on Tuesday 8/28 unless the form is signed.

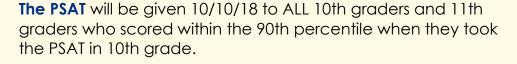
There is NO technology fee this year!

College and Career Corner

Class Information from the Guidance Counselors

Attention Seniors - Tuesday September 4th 7:00 pm

(The Same Night as the Open House) in the CATA Auditorium the Guidance Department will be hosting Senior Night. This event is for all seniors and their parents. The purpose of CATA Senior Night is to review a packet of information that explains and guides the timeline of senior year. Seniors will also receive a copy of their unofficial transcript to use for college applications. Beginning the week of September 5th to the end of September each guidance counselor will have an individual meeting with each of their assigned seniors—please note that seniors will receive important information that they need to have BEFORE they meet with their counselor. Your attendance at the evening meeting is strongly encouraged. Please contact your assigned counselor is you have any questions.





Class of 2020

Class of 2021



JUNIORS—All juniors will be taking the ACT, a college entrance exam on 2/27/19. In order to best prepare all juniors will work on ACT preparation during Cougar Time two times per week.

Open House—Meet the Teachers is on September 4th We hope to see you there!!

CATA Guidance Department

A high school guidance department can help your student with a LOT during high school—counseling during a problem/or stress, college planning, career/college questions, interview skills, problem solving with classes/teachers, friendship/social issues. Counselors also help with scheduling and what courses to take. Counselors are available to answer parent questions as well.

Please see the list of counselors by academy:

Ashley Lawson: Medical Science, Transportation & Guidance Department Chairperson

Ashley Cole: Pre-Engineering and Performing

Arts (theatre & dance)

Sarah Goodwin: Information Systems

(Cybersecurity, Computer Engineering, Software & Game Design) and Music Production & Recording Arts.

COUGAR ATHLETICS

If you have questions about athletics or want to volunteer to help with athletics, please send an email to Athletic Director, <u>Coach Jay Niessner</u>. Make sure to follow all of CATA's athletic teams on Twitter: **@CATA_Athletics**

Results

JV Football—Lost vs. Parkwood

Volleyball—Lost vs. Sun Valley, Lost vs. Piedmont. Lost vs. Sun Valley

Men's Soccer—Win vs. Forbush, Win vs. Richmond Senior, Win vs. Sun Valley

Women's Tennis—Loss vs. Sun Valley, Win vs. Monroe

Cross Country—Men & Women finished 6th @ Cuthbertson Invite

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, August 23rd:

HOME Volleyball vs. Porter Ridge – 4:30/6:00 pm

AWAY Soccer vs. North Lincoln – 5:00/6:30 pm

Saturday, August 25th:

AWAY Cross Country @ Metrolina – Time - TBA

Tuesday, August 28th:

AWAY Soccer vs. Cox Mill—4:30/6:00 pm

AWAY Tennis vs. Mount Pleasant—4:00 pm

AWAY Cross Country @ Mount Pleasant—4:30 pm

Wednesday, August 29th

HOME Volleyball vs. Union Academy—5:00 pm

Thursday, August 30th

HOME Volleyball vs. 1st Assembly 4:30/6:00 pm

HOME JV Football vs. Charlotte Christian 6:30 pm

HOME Tennis vs. West Stanly 4:00 pm—Monroe High



News & Information:

FAMILY ID: If you plan on participating in Athletics during the 2018-2019 school year you need to create a NEW Family ID account and get registered. Once you have registered, you must get approved before you can participate. You only have to register once and you are good for the entire school year. The link to the CATA Family ID page can be found under **FORMS** on the CATA Athletics Website Anyone participating in off season workouts must be registered and approved to participate

Fall Sports Coaches Contact Information:

Athletic Director: Jay Niessner – jay.niessner@ucps.k12.nc.us
Cheerleading: Ashley Lawson – Ashley.lawson@ucps.k12.nc.us
Cross Country: Kim Inuwa – kimberly.inuwa@ucps.k12.nc.us
Football: Charles Doak – Charles.doak@ucps.k12.nc.us
Men's Soccer: Jay Niessner – jay.niessner@ucps.k12.nc.us

Volleyball: Stephanie Peacock – <u>Stephanie.peacock@ucps.k12.nc.us</u>

Women's Golf: Nelson Rowell - nelson.rowell@ucps.k12.nc.us

Women's Tennis: Terry Lewis – terry.lewis@kw.com

ATTENDANCE AND EARLY DISMISSAL FACTS AND PROCEDURES

People to contact for absences:

SCHOOL PHONE # (704)296-3088 FAX # (704)296-3090 Mrs. Nahum-School Secretary-

andrea.nahum@ucps.k12.nc.us

Mr. Smith-Data Managerwilliam.smith@ucps.k12.nc.us Mrs. Riley- ISS and Absence Recovery Coordinator- karen.riley@ucps.k12.nc.us

Facts about attendance

- Attendance is taken by block (class period) in high school not by day. In addition, a student is marked absent if he/she misses more than 15 minutes of the block and if he/she misses less than 15 minutes of a class, then the student will be coded as a tardy in PowerSchool. Students will receive a consequence after the third tardy.
- Lunch is part of 3rd block so missing lunch is not excused and counts toward tardy/absent
- If your student needs to be absent, a written note or documentation must be turned in to Ms. Nahum in the front office within 3 days of your student's return to school in order for it to be considered for excusal. We have an absence form available for you to fill out and turn in. Please make copies of it for you to use throughout the school year. Please click HERE to find the form on our website.
- A note from a doctor's office is required to excuse an absence due to a doctor's appointment. A doctor's visit note only covers the actual appointment and travel time. It does not excuse the whole day.
- In addition to illness/injury and doctor's appointments, the following are also lawful reasons for school absences: Death in the immediate family, Court, administrative proceedings, jury duty (documentation required), Religious observances (prior approval by principal required), Educational Opportunity (10 day prior approval) Educational Opportunity Request Form linked on this page. Quarantine, and Military Deployment (documentation required)
- Please see Student Handbook for further explanation of attendance policies.
- All absences will be coded unexcused in PowerSchool until a written note/documentation is received. Written documentation must be legible, dated with the student's absence, contain the student's full name, and must be submitted within three days.
- ConnectEd phone calls are made at the end of the school day to notify parents/guardians of student absences whether excused or unexcused.

Early Dismissal Procedures and Facts

- If your student **driver** needs to leave before the school day is over, then a parent note must be turned into the front office before school so that an early dismissal pass can be given to the student.
- The parent note must contain all of the following: 1) the student's name, 2) parent's name and contact phone number, and 3) the time that the student needs to be dismissed.
- If the student is getting picked up by someone other than the parents/guardians or anyone on the student's contact list, then the student's dismissal note must also contain the name of the person that is picking them up.
- It is the student's responsibility to keep their early dismissal pass with them and show it to their teacher so that they may exit class. Once exiting the classroom, the student must then come to the front office to sign out before leaving campus.

An attendance letter will be sent home with students after the 3rd, 6th, and 8th unexcused absence. At this time students will be notified if they owe recovery time for absences.

Around CATA

Friday, August 24—"Please See Your Counselor" (fill schedule holes) time, 12:30 to 3:00 PM (See the Student Schedule Information in this edition for Details), Guidance Office

Monday, August 27—-First Day of School; Lockers for Sale during lunches, Schedule Corrections (Google Doc)

Tuesday, August 28—Lockers for Sale during lunches, Schedule Corrections (Google Doc); Chromebook Distribution during second period (Students Must have their Chromebook Agreement Forms)

Wednesday, August 29—Lockers for Sale during lunches, Schedule Corrections (Google Doc);

Thursday, August 30—Lockers for Sale during lunches, Schedule Corrections (Google Doc); Year-book Club Interest Meeting, 3:30, (Rm. 102, Ms. Pentecost); Junior Cyber Night, 6:30 (Rm. 401)

Friday, August 31-Lockers for Sale during lunches, Schedule Corrections (Google Doc)

Monday, September 3—NO SCHOOL, Labor Day

Tuesday, September 4—Performing Arts Parent Night, 5:00 PM (Media Center); Open House, 6-8 PM, Senior Night, 7:00 PM (Theatre); Senior Night, 7 PM (Theatre); College visit, UNCC, 9:30 AM (Media Center); NHS Meeting, 8:15 AM and 3:35 PM (Media Center)

September Events:

9/4— Open House, 6 PM,

9/4 — Senior Night, 7 PM (Theatre)

9/4—Performing Arts Parent Night, 5 PM (Media Center)

9/5—Performing Arts Committee PTSO Parent Interest Meeting, 6 PM (Media Center)

9/10– Furman University Visit

9/10—PTSO Meeting 6:30 PM (Media Center)

9/11—Fall Sports Pictures, 3:30 (Gym)

9/15—Union County Marching Band Preview, (MRHS)

9/17—Beta Club Induction, 6:00 PM (Theatre)

9/18—Early Release Day, 8:50 AM to 12:30 PM

9/19—Optional Teacher Workday, NO SCHOOL

9/20—Senior Portrait Make Up Pictures

9/20—Progress Reports

9/20 to 9/21—Spring Musical Auditions, 3:45

9/26—Site Based Team Meeting, 3:45 PM (Media Center Conference Room)

9/27—University of South Carolina Visit

9/29—Sophomore Improv Show, 7 PM (Theatre)

Student Life

Incoming students will get to tour a **Student Life Fair** in the first week or two of school. It is so important to get involved in something at school, whether it is a club, student council, athletics, band, or a co-curricular organization. Keep your eyes open and be open to the possibilities!!!!

Many of our student life organizations are listed on our website. Click here.

Yearbook Club Interest Meeting, 3:30, (Rm. 102, Ms. Pentecost)

Cougar Pride - Way to go!!!

We are proud of our faculty and staff for working hard to prepare for a great school year!

Cougar Council PTSO Information

Click <u>here</u> to view important PTSO information, minutes, and agendas.

Congratulations are in order to our new CATA PTSO Board for the 2018/19 school year. A big thank you to our outgoing PTSO Board. We appreciate all of your hard work and you will be missed. If anyone is interested in being a committee chair we have several open-

ings for Fundraising and Membership chairs. Please contact catacougarcouncil@gmail.com for more information.

The PTSO will host the Senior Breakfast on May 24th.

President: Nicole D'Amico

nicole.damico.me@gmail.com

Vice President: Meena Sreeraman,

meenaskalp@yahoo.com

Secretary: Sabrina Clontz, sfclontz@carolina.rr.com

Treasurer: Ann Helms, adhelms@aol.com

Communications: Jeannine Kenary & Sarah May,

jmk1098@gmail.com,

sarah.w.may@gmail.com

Hospitality:

Carol Taldo & Megan Huffman ctaldo@me.com, meghuf5@yahoo.com

Performing Arts:

Carla Harrison & Janet Peirano carlasharrison@yahoo.com,

janetpeirano@yahoo.com

Membership: Vacant

Jennifer Fisher

jfisher@ishopcart.com

Fundraising: Vacant





Volunteering at Central Academy:

We are happy to have our parents volunteer for events, field trips, and other school activities. Please click here to fill out an application to volunteer.



Invest in Excellence

Our theme for this year is 'Great to Greater.' We are working with our PTSO over to assess enhancement opportunities for our school. Please mark your calendar for our Annual 'Invest in Excellence' Campaign beginning on August 20th through October 5th. We are asking all of our families to 'gift' Central Academy of Technology & Arts a \$25 donation. Our fundraiser is to enhance our TOTAL SCHOOL environment where all students benefit. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 to be used for big-ticket projects such as portable speaker microphone system for game announcements and events, Broadcasting room installation and updates for Live Television Broadcasting, fall and spring Wellness weeks, departments and academies 'Wish List' items and staff/teacher appreciation year-round. We have prizes built in for our students: \$25 donations receive "I'm Invested in Central Academy" car decal, \$50 donations: car decal and ice cream truck pass, \$100 donations: car decal, ice cream truck pass and spirit t-shirt. PTSO membership is included in your minimum donation of \$25. Thank you for your support!

Spring Musical Auditions—Open to All Students

All school CATA Spring musical auditions will be held Sept 20 and 21 from 3:45pm-6:00pm in the Chorus room and Dance Studio. Paper sign-up for audition slots will be available in the Performing Arts Hallway during the first week of school.

All students should come prepared (off book) with a rock ballad (musical, contemporary or 80s and 90s) with sheet music. Mrs. Gregory will be accompanying on the piano. Please treat this as a professional audition opportunity and make every effort to locate the sheet music. Remember to ACT the story of your song! What do you want or need (as your character) that makes you have to sing your song at this moment?

Come prepared to move and learn choreography following your singing audition. There is a dance call for all who are auditioning.

If you sing and play the guitar, we want to meet you!

WE ENCOURAGE ALL OF CATA REGARDLESS OF ACADEMY AND ALL PERFORMING ARTS PATHWAYS TO AUDITION AND GET INVOLVED!

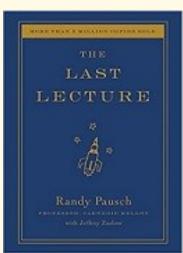
There is a \$50 activity fee to participate in the Spring Musical.



Be in the Know by following us on Twitter

CATA Summer Read- CATA supports reading! The CATA community – staff and students – are reading this summer. The goal for the summer reading program is for students to have a pleasurable and positive summer reading experience. Learning to read texts without structured assignments and being able to communicate and make connections with others about the reading is an essential skill. **All incoming ninth grade students will read:** "The Last Lecture" by Randy Pausch. When students return in the fall during Cougar Time, in small groups, students will have the opportunity to make connections with a teacher and their grade level peers. The CATA Summer Read is an annual tradition and each spring faculty pitch books and students get to pick their top three. Each student is eventually paired up with one of their book preferences (we usually have about 18-20 different books being read) and everyone gets to read and share. Next spring your student will get this same opportunity!

All 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students should be reading their book selection. If you forgot your book, check your student UCPS email from last Spring, or call the school—we have the list. If you are a new sophomore, then please call the school for a list of books you are able to choose to read.



2018 yearbooks

Yearbooks will be on sale when school starts and students will receive an order form the first day at school. Online sales will be available then as well. Pricing and details for senior tributes will also be available. Senior Tributes need to be <u>purchased and photos submitted</u> by October 31st. We can not guarantee space after that date as pages will be set. If your senior photos will not be back in time for the deadline please contact Ms. Christensen so we can make arrangements.



New Family Information

- School day hours: 8:50-3:30 (Class starts at 8:50, students should all **arrive by 8:40** when the first bell rings to move to class.) If you are dropping your student off by car, you should arrive between 8:20—8:30 to ensure that your child can get to class on time.
- Lunches are determined by your 3rd block teacher. Don't worry—you will meet people to sit with.
- Upon arrival on the first day of school, all students will report to Advisory first. Advisory assignments will be posted at the front of the school.
- Set uniforms are not required for PE classes, but a dress code is strictly enforced. This will be discussed during the first day of class. Sneakers, athletic shorts, and t-shirt are required every day.
- Lockers are not required, but you may rent a locker for \$3.00. PE Lockers are required.
 Your PE teacher will provide information. NO students may leave their belongings out in
 the PE locker room—ALL belongings must be secured with a school-issued lock. Students
 will be charged for missing locks.
- Supply lists will be posted on Teacher's Public Canvas pages on Thursday 8/23.
- Attendance is taken during each class, and it is vital that you are present at school every day for every class. If you must make doctor appointments during the school day, be sure to do so at different times of the day so you don't miss too many days in one class.
- Attendance matters for participation in extracurricular activities, credit for courses, and
 affects eligibility for sports. Students too sick to come to school may not be on school
 grounds for extracurricular events that day. Absence notes MUST be turned in within
 three days.
- Every teacher will have a web page (on Canvas) for students and parents to access with course information.
- All students will receive a student login/password to the Parent Portal so that they can see their grades. This will become active on Monday, September 10.
- Students are expected to check their school email account daily as both teachers and administration use this to communicate with students.



CATA Class of 2019

Rising Seniors Order Form





- Orders must be accompanied with payment by <u>CASH or CHECK</u> only
- Checks made payable to <u>CATA PTSO</u> \$10.00 per T-Shirt, \$20 per sign or \$25 for both!
- Tear off bottom portion return to the media center with payment by June 12th.
- T-Shirts will be available at open house in August.

CATA 2019 Seniors Pre-Order Form

Student Name:	
Phone:	
Email:	Senior T-Shirt Perk: Seniors that wear
Please indicate number of T-Shirts and Sizes below:	the official Senior T -Shirt with CATA
T-shirt/Lawn Sign Combo: \$25.00 eaTotal ordered:	Pride will receive a
T-Shirts: \$10.00 - Total ordered:	concession/special at a Fall/Winter &
Senior Lawn Sign: \$20.00 each—Total ordered:	Spring SENIOR
T-Shirt Size: SMALL MEDIUM	NIGHT.
LARGE XL XXL	3
Total Paid:	

Thank you for supporting your students and the PTSO! Sale proceeds will be used by the PTSO to support students and CATA programs in our upcoming school year.

Student Parking Passes

ALL past due student fees must be paid before you are permitted to purchase a parking pass—this includes the 2015-2016, 2016-2017, AND 2017-2018 technology fee, media center fees, cafeteria, and any fees owed to CATA.



- ALL Students, MUST print and bring ALL required documents with you along with
 the cash (exact amount) or check for \$40 made payable to Central Academy
 of Technology & Arts. Any incomplete application packets will delay the process and you canNOT reserve your parking spot until all documents and check are turned in. Please make sure to
 have your parent sign the registration forms. They are available on the CATA website under
 "Students". Click here for the link.
- <u>Students may choose their parking spot number if they purchase BEFORE the first day of school.</u>
 After that we will sell remaining spots in order.
- If you pay with cash, you MUST have exact change.

STUDENTS WHO DRIVE TO SCHOOL ON THE FIRST DAY WILL NEED TO HAVE A HANG TAG TO PARK IN A RESERVED SPACE. Parking passes are not guaranteed available throughout the school year. Once we sell out we will start a waiting list. Students obtaining their license during the school year are not guaranteed a spot, and may have to wait until the following year to drive. We will have a waitlist for those students bringing in all appropriate documentation.

The Student Section at CATA is the....

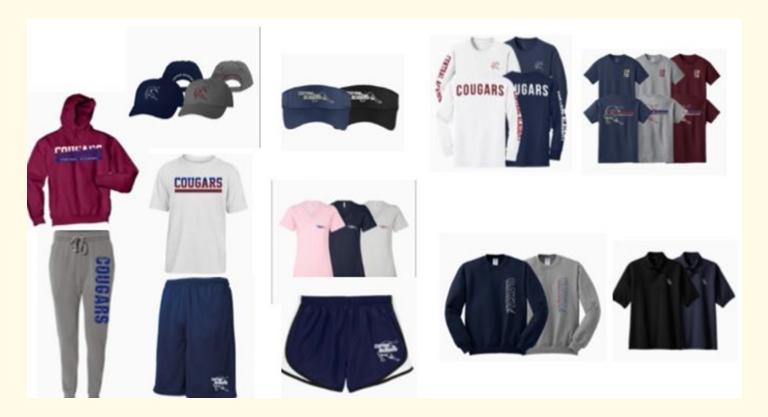
BLUE CREW



Purchase the 18-19 Blue Crew Shirt by clicking here for <u>our online link</u>. Shirts cost \$12 and are sold online, at home athletic events, and during lunches.

CATA COUGAR SPIRIT WEAR

Click here to see CATA Spirit Wear when our online store is open periodically. When the online store is not open, then our Spirt Wear will be available during Open House on 9/4. Spirit Wear is sold at all home JV Football Games and at select Basketball Games. Our Band Boosters sell Cougar Spirit Wear!



Cougar Athletic Pass (For Parents and Students)

The Athletic Department is selling **athletic passes** for all CATA regular season home games for Fall, Winter and Spring seasons. The cost is \$50 for the year. This is a deal! Attending ten athletic events a year pays for the pass. You can purchase in person at home JV Football games, home Volleyball matches, home Men's Soccer matches, or online by clicking here.

